

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SSC-01 /057 W

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P 010915Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6030

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0849

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PCNT, MORG, MZ

SUBJECT EMBASSY COMMENTS ON GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE

REF: MAPUTO 0843

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. MAIN PURPOSE OF GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE AP-
PEARS TO BE TO TRY TO ENSURE LOYALTY OF SECURITY FORCES BY
EXTENDING FRELIMO CONTROLS AND INDOCTRINATION WITHIN THE ARMY
AND SECURITY APPARATUS. PRESIDENT MACHEL SEEMS TO BE CON-
CERNED OVER THE MORALE OF TROOPS AFTER THEIR REPEATEDLY POOR
PERFORMANCES AGAINST THE RHODESIANS. MOZAMBIKAN LEADERSHIP
ALSO APPARENTLY TAKEN BACK BY COUP ATTEMPT IN ANGOLA. PRESI-
DENTIAL ADVISOR SERGIO VIEIRA'S STAR APPEARS TO BE RISING.
EMBASSY HAS TO AWAIT MORE INFORMATION TO ASCERTAIN IF FORMER
MINISTER OF INTERIOR ARMANDO GUEBUZA HAS BEEN DEMOTED.
END SUMMARY.

2. CLEARLY THE MOST SIGNIFICANT FEATURE OF THE JUNE 28
RESHUFFLE WAS THE ACTION TAKEN TO EXTEND FRELIMO PARTY
CONTROLS OVER THE ARMY AND SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS. CON-
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CERN ABOUT THE MORALE OF THE ARMY, IN PART BECAUSE OF ITS
POOR PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE RHODESIANS, WAS PROBABLY ONE
OF THE REASONS BEHIND THE MOVE. FROM TIME TO TIME THERE
HAVE ALSO BEEN REPORTS OF INDISCIPLINE AND CORRUPTION IN
THE ARMY AND POLICE, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN QUICK
TO EXPOSE AND PUNISH. HOW EXTENSIVE THESE OCCURENCES ARE
WE DO NOT KNOW. THE COUP ATTEMPT IN ANGOLA, IN WHICH

ANGOLAN ARMY AND MPLA PARTY OFFICIALS WERE INVOLVED, MAY HAVE PROMPTED MACHEL TO WATCH HIS OWN ARMY AND SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS MORE CLOSELY.

3. THE SELECTION OF PRESIDENTIAL AIDE SERGIO VIEIRA TO HEAMYU PARTY'S DEFENSE AND SECURITY DEPARTMENTS IS NOT SUPRISING. FOR PAST FEW YEARS HE HAS BEEN CLOSE TO PRESIDENT MACHEL AND HAS FREQUENTLY BEEN PUT ON SENSITIVE SECURITY OR INTELLIGENCE ASSIGNMENTS. FOR EXAMPLE, IN 1975 HE WAS SENT BY FRELIMO TO ENQUIRE INTO THE ASSASSINATION OF ZIMBABWEAN LIBERATION LEADER HERBERT CHITEPO. MORE RECENTLY, FOLLOWING THE COUP ATTEMPT IN ANGOLA, HE DELIVERED A MESSAGE FROM MACHEL TO NETO. ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF VIEIRA'S VISIT TO LUANDA NO DOUBT WAS TO FIND OUT WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED. VIEIRA IS THOUGHT TO BE LOYAL TO MACHEL, FROM WHOM HE DERIVES HIS INFLUENCE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT. SINCE VIEIRA IS TO REPORT DIRECTLY TO MACHEL IN HIS NEW JOB, IT IS BELIEVED HE MAY RETAIN HIS OFFICE IN THE PALACE.

4. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE APPOINTMENT OF GUEBUZA AS POLITICAL COMMISSAR IN THE ARMY WITH THE MISSION OF RAISING MORALE AND ENSURING PARTY CONTROL IS MORE DIFFICULT TO ASSESS. SOME OF THE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS HERE SEE HIS REASSIGNMENT AS A DEMOTION. WE ARE NOT SO SURE. WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT HE HAS LOST HIS JOB AS MINISTER OF INTERIOR, HE HAS RETAINED HIS POSITION ON THE PERMANENT POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PARTY. HE HAS NOT BEEN NOTICEABLY OUT OF FAVOR OR OUT OF THE PUBLIC EYE THESE PAST FEW MONTHS. IF MACHEL HAS SOME SPECIAL REASON TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ARMY OF WHICH THE EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE, THEN THE APPOINTMENT OF GUEBUZA AS POLITICAL COMMISSAR IN THE ARMY WITH RANK EQUIVALENT TO THAT THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF SEBASTIAO MOBOTA COULD BE AN INDICATION OF THE HIGH REGARD AND LOYALTY IN WHICH HE IS HELD BY MACHEL. IN ANY EVENT, THE EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THIS RECENT RESHUFFLE TO WARRANT DRAWING ANY FIRM CONCLUSIONS ABOUT GUEBUZA.

5. THE NEW GOVERNOR OF MAPUTO PROVINCE, JOSE MOIANA, HAS A REPUTATION OF BEING A WEAK ADMINISTRATOR. SINCE IT IS IN MANICA PROVINCE WHERE MUCH OF THE FIGHTING IS TAKING PLACE AND WHERE MANY OF THE ARMED FORCES ARE STATIONED, MACHEL MAY HAVE WANTED A STRONGER GOVERNOR THERE.

6. THE DEPARTURE OF JORGE TEMBE FROM THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE WILL BE REGRETED BY THE WPP AND FOREIGN DONORS, WHO CONSIDERED TEMBE THE MINISTRY' ABLEST TECHNICIAN AND FOUND HIM A HELPFUL OFFICIAL TO WORK WITH.

7. THE REASSIGNMENT OF TWO ARMY OFFICIERS AND ONE POLICE

OFFICER TO THE SUGAR SECTOR SEEMS TO BE A POLITE WAY OF
REMOVING OFFICERS FROM THEIR ACTIVE COMMANDS THE SUGAR
SECTOR CERTAINLY DOES NOT NEED THREE OFFICIALS, NONE OF
WHOM PROBABLY KNOW MUCH ABOUT SUGAR.

8. NO ONE HAS AS YET BEEN NAMED TO REPLACE GUEBUZA AS
MINISTER OF INTERIOR.
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